

indicated at 13, where the joining of the large inflatable hoop 14 to the very top of each arch with slanted legs 11 is seen at each individual corresponding place 15. The illustration of FIG. 2 shows a cut out side view of the sports goal as generally indicated at 16, where the position of the joining between the large inflatable hoop 14 and the open ended tubular shaped netting 17 is clearly shown at 18 where it hugs the inner radius of the large inflatable hoop 14.

To provide for quick and easy erection and disassembly to a convenient size for portability and storage, the sports goal 10 is formed of an inflatable framework, indicated generally at 19 in FIGS. 4, 5, and 6 and comprising of five inflatable bladders, as seen at 20, 21, 22, 23, and 24, respectively, together with a casing 25 formed of non-elastic material and carrying the open ended tubular shaped netting 17.

The casing 25 has slits 26 provided at convenient locations equally upon each individual arch with slanted legs 11, as seen in FIG. 1 to allow inflatable bladders 20, 21, 22, and 23 of framework 19 to be inserted therein. The casing 25 has a slit 27 provided at a convenient location upon the large inflatable hoop 14 as seen in FIG. 3 to allow for the inflatable bladder 24 of framework 19 to be inserted therein. Because casing 25 is formed of non-elastic material, it will form a strong and rigid structure when inflatable framework 19 is inserted and inflated.

At the same time, sports goal 10 can quickly and easily be erected or disassembled, when desired, for portability and storage, and, once disassembled, will occupy a minimum of space. Also, sports goal 10 is extremely light and buoyant and, hence, will float on water for use in water basketball and other water sports. Finally, if desired, flaps with hooks 28, 29, 30, and 31 may be provided adjacent the respective pairs of legs 11 of casing 25 to receive suitable weights within vinyl bags, such as stones, sand, and the like to weigh the sports goal to the ground in a desired location.

When deflated, inflatable framework 19 and casing 25 can be folded and stored in a minimum of space and will be quite light, so that sports goal 10 can easily be transported in a suitable carrying case, not shown, to a desired location. At the desired location, inflatable bladders 20, 21, 22, 23, and 24 can be inflated and assembled inside casing 25 and deflated as one complete assembly. Next, the assembled inflatable network 19 can be inserted into slots 26 and 27 of casing 25 to form sports goal 10, as seen in FIGS. 4, 5, and 6. Finally, sports goal 10 can be oriented as desired, and suitable means such as weights can be applied to the flaps 28, 29, 30, and 31 to weigh down the sports goal 10 in a desired position.

Obviously, numerous other variations and modifications can be made without departing from the spirit of the present invention. Therefore, it should be clearly understood that the forms of the present invention described above and shown in the figures of the accompanying drawing, are illustrative only and are not intended to limit the scope of this invention. Industrial Applicability

Once inflated and assembled, sports goal/hoop is quite rigid and will be extremely strong. Obviously, sports goal/hoop can be mounted on dirt, sand, gymnasium, grass or paved surfaces, as desired, for use with basketball, soccer or any type balls. Alternatively, because framework is

inflatable, it is also capable of floating on water. Therefore, sports goal/hoop can be used for water sports, in addition to its use on land.

What is claimed is:

1. A sports goal comprising:

an inflatable goal structure comprising an annular member having a central opening to allow passage therethrough of a ball, and a plurality of leg members supporting said annular member in a horizontal position;

wherein said goal structure comprises a plurality of tubes formed of non-elastic material with valve means for facilitating inflation and deflation of said structure; wherein said goal is approximately eight feet tall.

2. The sports goal of claim 1 wherein: said goal is capable of standing on water.

3. The sports goal of claim 1, further comprising: a net encircling the interior of said annular member and extending downwardly therefrom.

4. The sports goal of claim 1 further comprising: ballast means attached to said leg members to aid in maintaining said goal in an upright position.

5. The sports goal of claim 4 further comprising: said ballast member comprises a bag filled with material at least as heavy as water.

6. The sports goal of claim 1 further comprising: a plurality of flaps projecting from said leg members to receive means for anchoring said goal in a desired position.

7. The sports goal of claim 1 further comprising four leg members.

8. The sports goal of claim 1 further comprising an inflatable bladder.

9. A sports goal comprising:

an inflatable goal structure comprising an annular member having a central opening to allow passage therethrough of a ball, and a plurality of leg members supporting said annular member in a horizontal position;

wherein said goal structure comprises a plurality of tubes formed of non-elastic material with valve means for facilitating inflation and deflation of said structure; wherein said goal is approximately six feet tall.

10. The sports goal of claim 9 wherein: said goal is capable of standing on water.

11. The sports goal of claim 9 further comprising: a net encircling the interior of said annular member and extending downwardly therefrom.

12. The sports goal of claim 9 further comprising: ballast means attached to said leg members to aid in maintaining said goal in an upright position.

13. The sports goal of claim 12 further comprising: said ballast member comprises a bag filled with material at least as heavy as water.

14. The sports goal of claim 9 further comprising: a plurality of flaps projecting from said leg members to receive means for anchoring said goal in a desired position.

15. The sports goal of claim 9 further comprising four leg members.

16. The sports goal of claim 9 further comprising an inflatable bladder.

New Claims

3 17. A sports game comprising a ball in combination with an
4 inflatable goal structure comprising an annular member
5 having a central opening to allow passage there through of
6 said ball, and a plurality of leg members supporting said
7 annular member in a horizontal position; wherein said goal
8 structure comprises a plurality of tubes with valve means for
9 facilitating inflation and deflation of said structure; wherein
10 said goal is approximately eight feet tall.

11 18. A sports goal comprising: an inflatable goal structure
12 comprising an annular member having a central opening to
13 allow passage there through of a ball, and a plurality of leg
14 members supporting said annular member in a horizontal
15 position; wherein said goal structure comprises a plurality
16 of tubes with valve means for facilitating inflation and
17 deflation of said structure; wherein said goal is
18 approximately eight feet tall.

19 19. The sports goal of claim 18 wherein: said goal is
20 capable of standing on water.

1 20. The sports goal of claim 18, further comprising: a net
2 encircling the interior of said annular member and
3 extending downwardly therefrom.
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7 21. The sports goal of claim 18 further comprising: ballast
8 means attached to said leg members to aid in maintaining
9 said goal in an upright position.
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13 22. The sports goal of claim 21 further comprising: said
14 ballast member comprises a bag filled with material at
15 least as heavy as water.
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19 23. The sports goal of claim 18 further comprising: a
20 plurality of flaps projecting from said leg members to
21 receive means of anchoring said goal in a desired position.
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25 24. The sports goal of claim 18 further comprising four leg
26 members.
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29 25. The sports goal of claim 18 further comprising an
30 inflatable bladder.
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33 26. A sports goal comprising: an inflatable goal structure
34 comprising an annular member having a central opening
35 to allow passage therethrough of a ball, and a plurality of
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1 leg members supporting said annular member in a
2 horizontal position; wherein said goal structure comprises
3 a plurality of tubes, with valve means for facilitating inflation
4 and deflation of said structure; wherein said goal is
5 approximately six feet tall.
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11 27. The sports goal of claim 26 wherein: said goal is
12 capable of standing on water.
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15 28. The sports goal of claim 26 further comprising: a net
16 encircling the interior of said annular member and
17 extending downwardly therefrom.
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21 29. The sports goal of claim 26 further comprising: ballast
22 means attached to said leg members to aid in maintaining
23 said goal in an upright position.
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27 30. The sports goal of claim 29 further comprising: said
28 ballast member comprises a bag filled with material at
29 least as heavy as water.
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33 31. The sports goal of claim 26 further comprising: a
34 plurality of flaps projecting from said leg members to
35 receive means for anchoring said goal in a desired position.
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1 32. The sports goal of claim 26 further comprising four leg
2 members.

3 33. The sports goal of claim 26 further comprising an
4 inflatable bladder.

5 34. A sports game comprising a ball in combination with an
6 inflatable goal structure comprising an annular member
7 having a central opening to allow passage there through of
8 said ball, and a plurality of leg members supporting said
9 annular member in a horizontal position; wherein said goal
10 structure comprises a plurality of tubes with valve means for
11 facilitating inflation and deflation of said structure; wherein
12 said goal is approximately six feet tall.

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